Pakistan and the violation of human rights at the hands of Pak-backed terrorists in the valley;

(b) if so whether the delegation offered French help to fight terrorism; and

(c) what were the precise observations and suggestions of the delegation and the understanding reached with it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Discussions with US Assistant Secretary of State

4615. SYED SIBTEY RAZI :
DR. BAPU KALDATE :
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA :
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :
SHRI GAYA SINGH :
SHRI N. E. BALARAM :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that he and other Ministers had meetings with the visiting Ms. Robin Raphel, Assistant Secretary of State of USA, recently;

(b) if so, whether it conforms to the accepted norms of protocol; and

(c) what are the details of the discussion that took place and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) During her visit to Delhi, the US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia called on the Home Minister and the Minister of State for External Affairs Shri R. L. Bhatia. Minister of State for Internal Security Shri Rajesh Pilot was present during the call on the Home Minister.

(b) In arranging these calls, Government took into account diplomatic practice and protocol observed by other countries in respect of visiting US officials of the rank of Assistant Secretary.

(c) Discussions covered issues of mutual concern, including Pakistan's support to terrorism in Punjab and J. K. The Home Minister highlighted the fact that certain statements emanating from Washington had impacted adversely on the ground situation in J. & K. He stressed that J & K was an integral part of India and the people of India would not tolerate attempts to undermine the nation's territorial integrity.

The US Assistant Secretary reiterated that the US would continue to urge Pakistan to cease support to terrorists operating in India. She said outstandig issues in Indo-Pak relations should be resolved bilaterally within the framework of the Simla Agreement.

Government reiterated India's deep concern at the US proposal to transfer F-16 aircraft to Pakistan. Discussions also focussed on the need to revitalized existing cooperation and the potential for further growth in economic and commercial relations.

Invitation for Prime Minister's Visit to U. S. A.

4616. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Prime Minister of India has so far received any formal invitation from the President of the United States to visit Washington later this summer; and

(b) if so, whether any agenda therefor has been decided so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The agenda is expected to cover a range of bilateral and multilateral issues of mutual interest, including potential for cooperation in international affairs and UN peacekeeping opeartions.